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POWELL IN DARFUR TO SEEK QUICK RESOLUTION TO CRISIS

White House calls on international community to coordinate response

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell visited Sudan June 29 and 30 at the direction of President Bush to survey the humanitarian situation in the Darfur region and “find a quick resolution to the crisis,” according to a White House statement by the press secretary, issued June 29.

Citing “approximately \$116 million in assistance” to Darfur by the United States and a total pledge of almost \$300 million, the White House called on the international community “to coordinate its response and not allow a human catastrophe of this magnitude to unfold.”

Following is the text of the White House statement:

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
June 29, 2004

Statement by the Press Secretary

The President is deeply disturbed by the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Darfur region of Sudan. He has directed Secretary Powell to travel to Darfur to urge the Sudanese Government to heed the concerns of the international community and find a quick resolution to the crisis. Secretary Powell will be in Khartoum on June 29 and Darfur on June 30.

The United States has led the world in identifying and responding to this crisis. The President, the National Security Advisor, and the Secretary of State have all called for the Government of Sudan to end the crisis now. The United States had identified the nascent crisis by April 2003, and a senior official went to Darfur in October 2003 to alert the world. To save lives, we have delivered approximately \$116 million in assistance and pledged a total of almost \$300 million.

The United States played a pivotal role this year in negotiating the April 8 cease-fire and negotiating the entrance of African Union monitors. The Administration will continue to seek Security Council attention to this grave issue. It is time for the international community to coordinate its response and not allow a human catastrophe of this magnitude to unfold.

The United States calls upon the Sudanese Government to act urgently and decisively to neutralize and disarm the Jinjaweed and to reverse the crisis and create conditions that will allow the displaced to return home safely and with dignity.

The Bush Administration calls on all parties to the conflict in Darfur to adhere to the cease-fire, to respect the rights of civilians, to allow the free movement of humanitarian workers and relief supplies, and to work in good faith toward a negotiated settlement.

BUSH SAYS DEMOCRACY WILL BRING JUSTICE, FREEDOM, PROSPERITY

President speaks at Galatasaray University in Istanbul

Istanbul, Turkey -- Freedom is the future of the Middle East, President Bush said in a speech June 29 at Galatasaray University on the banks of the Bosphorus. The president also said the region, though wary of democracy, had nothing to fear from it.

Democracy does not mean automatic agreement with other democracies, nor does it require citizens to abandon their faith, the president said. "The promise of democracy is fulfilled in freedom of speech, the rule of law, limits on the power of the state, economic freedom,

respect for women and religious tolerance. These are the values that honor the dignity of every life and ... lead to progress."

The president also praised Turkey as a model of democracy operating in a Muslim state. "Turkey has found what nations of every culture and every region have found: if justice is the goal, then democracy is the answer."

He also said Turkey should become a part of the European Union. Turkish membership would represent "a crucial advance in relations between the Muslim world and the West," Bush said, because Turkey is part of both worlds.

On the issue of political reform in the Middle East, the president said leaders in the region, including some who are friends of the United States, must realize that a nation that "compromises with violent extremists only emboldens them, and invites future violence." Bush said silencing political dissent "only increases radicalism." Long-term government stability, he said, depends upon openness to change and responsiveness to citizens.

"The rise of Iraqi democracy is bringing hope to reformers across the Middle East," the president said, and sends a very different message to Iran and Syria. "A free and sovereign Iraq is also a decisive defeat for extremists and terrorists -- because their hateful ideology will lose its appeal in a free, tolerant and successful country," he added.

Efforts to promote reform and democracy in the Middle East are manifest in NATO's approval at the summit of the Istanbul Cooperative Initiative, Bush said. The initiative is designed to help nations in the broader Middle East fight terrorism and control their borders, he said, and for NATO to provide assistance when disaster strikes.

STEEL SUBSIDY TALKS SWITCH TO CONSULTATIONS, GROUP SAYS

Differences too difficult to overcome in formal setting, OECD suggests

The United States and 37 other countries have decided to shift from formal negotiations to informal consultations in order to narrow key differences preventing them from reaching agreement on cutting or reducing subsidies to the steel sector, an organization of industrialized nations said.

Formal negotiations conducted by the High Level Group under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have produced a framework for an agreement and a consensus that such an agreement should provide for stricter disciplines on steel subsidies than those included in the existing World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement, the OECD said in a June 29 communiqué at the conclusion of the two-day meeting in Paris.

But participants agreed they need more time and less formal bilateral and multilateral discussions to iron out “significant” differences on key issues and determine how best to advance the talks, the organization said.

A major disagreement reportedly concerns a provision that would exempt environmental and research and development subsidies from imposition of punitive countervailing duties. According to news reports, Canadian, Mexican and U.S. steel makers are against the provision, which is sought by European steel producers. In addition, negotiators reportedly have not been able to come up with a consensus formula for special and differential treatment of developing countries.

Participants also received a progress report about worldwide steel capacity reduction. The objective has been made less urgent by the increase in global steel consumption and rising steel prices, the OECD suggested. Not only has the gap between capacity and production been reduced in recent years but the recent upturn in demand has been fuelling interest in new steel mills, it said. Due to the cyclical nature of the steel market, however, OECD said participants should monitor market conditions and exchange information periodically.

POWELL HAILS U.S.-EU AGREEMENT ON GPS-GALILEO COOPERATION

Powell at signing June 26 in Shannon, Ireland, with de Palacio, Cowen

Secretary of State Colin Powell hailed the new U.S.-EU agreement on Global Positioning System (GPS)-Galileo cooperation as a “remarkable achievement” at a signing ceremony June 26 in Shannon, Ireland, during the U.S.-EU Summit.

The U.S. GPS system consists of satellites broadcasting signals that can be converted into precise positioning and timing information anywhere in the world. In 1998 the European Union decided to develop its own satellite navigation system, which it called “Galileo.”

The new agreement, Powell said, “manages to balance the competition that is inherent in the commercial dimension of satellite navigational technology with the cooperation necessary for the security dimension.”

Powell also noted that combined GPS-Galileo capabilities will open up “major opportunities for scientific research and creative engineering, enabling new applications, applications that we haven’t even begun to think of yet, and also for the development of new technologies.”

European Commission Vice President Loyola de Palacio and Irish Foreign Minister Brian Cowen participated in the signing ceremony as well.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORS TO LAUNCH NORTH ATLANTIC AIR QUALITY STUDY

Data-gathering will help guide future environmental policy

An international scientific collaboration begins in July to better understand the masses of air, their quality and their movement as they drift northward from the northeastern corner of the United States, across the North Atlantic and on to Western Europe.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a major U.S. partner in the project, described the upcoming research in a June 28 news release. The project is part of the International Consortium for Atmospheric Research on Transport and Transformation (ICARTT) and will involve hundreds of government and academic researchers from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France and Germany. The objective will be to collect more data as a basis for making better decisions about environmental policy.

ICARTT was formed to plan and execute a series of coordinated experiments to study emissions and their chemical transformation as air currents move them over the North Atlantic.

“This type of collaborative, coordinated inquiry into the dynamics of our atmosphere is how science must move forward if we are to understand how Earth’s complex, interrelated systems work and, ultimately, if we are to protect the air we breathe,” said Berrien Moore III, director of the University of New Hampshire’s Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space, one of the university-based collaborators in the project. “In the future, society will depend upon air quality forecasts in much the same way it relies on weather forecasts.”

Further information about the project is available at <http://www.al.noaa.gov/2004/>

Following is the text of the NOAA press release:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Largest Air Quality And Climate Study Starts In New England

Federal and University Partners Launch International Experiment

June 28, 2004 - Hundreds of government and university scientists from across the country and in western Europe will be sampling the quality of the air this summer in the largest air quality and climate study to date as part of the International Consortium for Atmospheric Research on Transport and Transformation. NOAA and NASA are co-leads of the endeavor, which begins July 5 and ends in August.

A special focus of the sampling is a comprehensive effort to characterize air quality in the New England region,

work that is a major component of ICARTT called the New England Air Quality Study. The research will help provide the solid science needed to underpin the region’s future efforts to improve air quality for its citizens.

Scientists will be conducting research on all fronts-land, sea and air-to provide unprecedented information about the air as it crosses the U.S., leaves New England, traverses the Atlantic Ocean and arrives in western Europe. A dozen different research aircraft, including the NOAA WP-3D “hurricane hunter,” the NASA DC-8, the Canadian Convair 580, the French and German Falcons and the United Kingdom’s Bae-146, will take to the air as the mission’s “flying laboratories” to study the chemistry and meteorology of the atmosphere.

Operating from the Gulf of Maine, the NOAA research vessel Ronald H. Brown will get a detailed look at the chemistry of the air as it leaves the U.S. coast and heads eastward. Ground stations throughout New England, Nova Scotia and at the Azores will further define the atmospheric picture.

“It is extremely gratifying to see the various agencies in the U.S., Canada, and Europe combining their considerable capabilities to provide new information that will help guide future environmental decisions on air quality and climate,” said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. “NOAA is very pleased to lend its expertise to this international enterprise that is addressing two of the most important and complex environmental issues of our day-air quality and climate.”

Other major U.S. partners in the study include National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Energy and the University of New Hampshire. Scientists from other institutions and universities in the U.S., as well as researchers from Canada, the U.K., France and Germany, are also collaborating in the study.

“We are honored to be working so closely with NOAA on this ambitious and important study, which was initiated through the foresight of Senator Judd Gregg,” said Berrien Moore III, director of the University of New Hampshire’s Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space. “This type of collaborative, coordinated inquiry into the dynamics of our atmosphere is how science must move forward if we are to understand how Earth’s complex, interrelated systems work and, ultimately, if we are

to protect the air we breathe. In the future, society will depend upon air quality forecasts in much the same way it relies on weather forecasts.”

Among the U.S. partners are Harvard University, the Department of Energy-Brookhaven National Laboratory and the California Institute of Technology. The Meteorological Service of Canada and European scientists with the Intercontinental Transport of Ozone and Precursors-North Atlantic Study campaign are also collaborating.

The New England Air Quality Study component of the larger study will also help provide the scientific understanding needed for a new air quality forecasting capability that NOAA is developing in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency. The forecast guidance is being launched this summer in New England in conjunction with the NEAQS mission.

“The continuous, ground-based, air quality measurements from four University of New Hampshire atmospheric observatories will provide the foundation for the sampling done by NOAA’s mobile platforms in the Northeast this summer,” said Robert Talbot, director of UNH’s Atmospheric Investigation, Regional Modeling, Analysis and Prediction program. “The combination of all these measurements will give us an unprecedented amount of data to better understand regional air quality and help launch the forecasting that NOAA plans for later this year.”

NOAA and the University of New Hampshire are co-leads of the New England Air Quality Study.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of the nation’s coastal and marine resources. NOAA is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select “Washington File” from the drop-down menu under “News.”